

Appl. No. 10/625,742
Amdt. Dated November 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2004

REMARKS

Claims Rejections

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

The Examiner takes the position that claims 1, 15 and 16 are unpatentable as being anticipated by Japan Patent No. 60-122846 issued to Hayashida. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the reasons set out below.

The invention taught by Hayashida is fundamentally different than the present invention. The range hood itself is of a different design than the present invention. The range hood body 5 forms a vertical chamber having an air inlet 7 through which grease laden air is drawn into the interior of the range hood from above a cooking surface. The grease laden air comes into contact with a series of baffle plates 9 as it rises up the range hood interior to be vented to the outside by fan 6. The grease collects on the interior surfaces of the range hood. Cleaning fluid from a reservoir 11 formed in the base of the range hood is used to wash the greasy interior surfaces of the range hood. The reservoir has a lid having a funneled part and a float in the mouth of the funnel to open and close it. Once sufficient cleaning fluid (and grease) has drained down the interior of the range hood to the funnel, the liquid causes the float to rise thereby opening the mouth of the funnel so the liquid can drain into the reservoir 11. By sealing the reservoir, the float prevents vapor loss of the cleaning fluid, which is the stated purpose of the invention. Hayashida does not teach the use of a motor housing as that term is known in the art.

In contrast, in the present invention, the range hood comprises a motor housing defining an enclosure and having at least one motor and fan mounted in alignment with an intake opening. The reservoir is separate from the motor housing, preferably being located

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below and in abutment to it. The system taught in Hayashida would not work in the range hood of the present invention, as there is insufficient space between the base of the motor housing and the fan in which to fit the float.

Claim 1 has therefore been amended to limit the cleaning assembly to a range hood having a motor housing, motor and fan as taught in the present invention. In addition, claim 1 has been amended by adding the limitations that the reservoir has first and second inlets and first and second outlets and a conduit for transporting fluid from within the motor housing to the primary reservoir via the second inlet, and that the primary reservoir being fillable through the first inlet. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations are sufficient to distinguish claim 1 from the invention taught by Hayashida, such that claim 1 is presently allowable.

Claims 15 and 16 are dependent on claim 1. Newly added claims 17, 18 and 19 are ultimately dependent on claim 1 and have similar limitations as those advanced in claims 7, 9 and 10. Given that claims 15-19 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-19 are also allowable.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 1. Claims 3-14 are ultimately dependent on claim 2, so no further amendments were required.

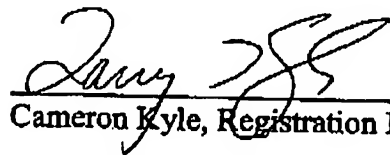
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CONCLUSION

The Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Date: November 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


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